

Written Testimony on HB0425 “Public Safety-Untraceable Firearms”

*****UNFAVORABLE*****

(But possibly Favorable if suggested amendments are made)

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I am writing today to express my OPPOSITION to HB0425 (“Public Safety-Untraceable Firearms”) in its current form and I am asking for an UNFAVORABLE report by the committee. However, I have one recommendation on how an amendment to the bill could CHANGE MY REQUEST FROM UNFAVORABLE to FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS.

First, I should say that struggled with the categorization of my recommendation. I feel that there is some room for compromise on this bill, but I absolutely cannot provide it with anything but an UNFAVORABLE recommendation in its current form.

I am a law-abiding gunowner, I hold a Federal Firearms License 03, and I enjoy 3D-printing. In fact, I own a 3D-printing business which is a registered LLC in the state of Maryland. Given that I am a firearms hobbyist, I can see the allure of home-made firearms, although I have never made one myself. I also understand the depth of the alleged problem with crime and untraceable firearms. I absolutely agree that the violence in our state is out of control, and something must be done to stop it. However, infringing on the rights of law-abiding gunowners and firearm hobbyists is not the way to accomplish this goal. We all know that criminals do not care about laws, it is what makes them criminals. The only people that will be punished by this bill in its current form are the tax-paying, law-abiding citizens of Maryland.

I have one recommendation for an amendment of this bill that would make it more palatable to gun owners and firearm hobbyists, such as myself. The bill takes the right approach by requesting serialization of homemade firearms; however, the process that leads to an outright banning of new manufacture of homemade guns needs to be rectified in the bill. **I recommend that the Jan 1, 2023, deadline currently contained in HB0425, which bans the possession of unserialized firearms, be removed from the bill and replaced with a process like one that exists in California’s current regulation on unserialized firearms.**

The process in California is rather simple and would result in the same endpoint that the Maryland bill is attempting to achieve; registration of regulated firearms through a process like the 77R process for handgun ownership. In California, if a law-abiding citizen wants to make a homemade firearm, they first must apply to the State of California for a serial number; this process involves going through a background check (<https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/usna>). Including a process identical or like the one used in California for registration of homemade firearms would be an acceptable compromise as it allows for registration of unserialized firearms while simultaneously preserving the right of law-abiding citizens to continue to make homemade firearms for their personal use.

I request that you consider amending HB0245 as suggested above, and I thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
Christopher D. Toscano, Ph.D., DABT